

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) An intervertebral implant comprising a central axis, an upper section, suitable for laying onto the base plate of a vertebral body lying above, and a lower section suitable for laying onto the cover plate of a vertebral body lying below, wherein:

the upper section has a ventral side area, a dorsal side area, two lateral side areas, a top apposition surface, and a bottom surface;

the lower section has a ventral side area, a dorsal side area, two lateral side areas, a bottom apposition surface, and a top surface; and

the upper and lower ~~two~~ sections are moveable in relation to each other via two joints arranged between the two sections, wherein:

each of the joints has a swivel axis ~~axle~~ and the two swivel axes ~~axles~~ are arranged transversely or perpendicular to each other; and

the two joints comprise an upper joint element connected with the upper section, a central joint element, and a lower joint element connected with the lower section, wherein:

each joint comprises a wedge member having a pointed tip ~~first joint section with an elevation having an edge for the bearing against~~ of a second joint section in a way that allows tilting around the swivel axis ~~axle~~.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral implant according to claim 1, wherein the second joint section comprises a pointed depression for receiving the pointed tip ~~elevation~~ on the first joint section.

5. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral implant according to claim 4, wherein the wedge member formed on the lower joint section extends ~~comprises an elevation~~ parallel to the swivel axis ~~axle~~ with the pointed tip ~~an edge~~ forming the swivel axis ~~axle~~, and wherein the pointed tip ~~this elevation~~ is carried in a pointed depression on the central joint section.

6. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral implant according to claim 4, wherein the wedge member formed on the upper joint section extends ~~comprises an elevation~~ parallel to the swivel axis ~~axle~~ with the pointed tip ~~an edge~~ forming the swivel axis ~~axle~~, and wherein the pointed tip ~~this elevation~~ is carried in a pointed depression on the central joint section.

7. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral implant according to claim 1, wherein the swivel axes ~~axles~~ are warped in relation to each other.

8. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 1, further comprising a means for keeping the two sections, measured at their ventral side areas, at a fixed distance from each other.

9. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 1, further comprising a means for causing temporary blocking of the mobility of the two sections around the joints.

10. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 8, wherein the means can be attached to the two ventral side areas of the two sections.

11. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 9, wherein the means comprises an insert with a lower end and an upper end and a depression in the surfaces at each of the two sections, which are open on the ventral side areas, and that the insert with its ends can be inserted into each of the depressions.

12. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 11, wherein the depressions are dovetail guides and the ends on the insert are arranged complementary to these dovetail guides.

13. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 12, wherein the dovetail guides are tapered from the ventral side areas towards the dorsal side areas.

14. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 1, wherein the upper and the lower sections each comprise at least two drill holes running through from the ventral side areas to the apposition surfaces with longitudinal axes for receiving bone fixation devices.

15. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 14, wherein the longitudinal axes of the drill holes make an angle γ with the central axis.

16. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 15, wherein the angle γ lies in a range between 20 degrees and 65 degrees.

17. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 14, wherein the longitudinal axes of the drill holes as seen from the ventral side areas diverge from the inner surfaces against the apposition surfaces.

18. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 14, wherein the drill holes are conically tapered towards the apposition surfaces.

19. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 14, wherein the drill holes have an internal thread.

20. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 1, wherein the central joint section comprises a first catching means and the lower joint section comprises a second catching means, and that the first and second catching means can be engaged with each other.

21. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral implant according to claim 1, wherein hinges are attached between the upper joint section and the central joint section, through which the two joint sections are held together parallel to the central axis ~~axle~~ without this causing any restriction of the rotation movement of the two joint sections relative to each other around the first swivel axis.

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22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)